

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

|                     |   |                          |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Jerry T. Moorehead, | ) | C/A No.: 6:15-4253-BHH   |
|                     | ) |                          |
| Plaintiff,          | ) |                          |
|                     | ) | <b>ORDER AND OPINION</b> |
| vs.                 | ) |                          |
|                     | ) |                          |
| J.T. Godfrey,       | ) |                          |
|                     | ) |                          |
| Defendant.          | ) |                          |
|                     | ) |                          |

Plaintiff Jerry T. Moorehead ("Plaintiff"), proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis*, filed this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2), DSC, this matter was referred to United States Magistrate Judge Kevin F. McDonald for pre-trial proceedings and a Report and Recommendation. On February 16, 2016, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report and Recommendation in which he recommended that the case be dismissed for lack of prosecution pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), *Ballard v. Carlson*, 882 F.2d 93, 95 (4th Cir.1989). (ECF No. 29.) The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to this Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight. The responsibility for making a final determination remains with this Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261, 270, 96 S.Ct. 549, 46 L.Ed.2d 483 (1976). The Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the Report and Recommendation or may recommit the matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

'The authority of a court to dismiss *sua sponte* for lack of prosecution has generally been considered an 'inherent power,' governed not by rule or statute but by the control necessarily vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and

expeditious disposition of cases.” See *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630–31, 82 S.Ct. 1386, 8 L.Ed.2d 734 (1962). As well as inherent authority, this Court may *sua sponte* dismiss a case for lack of prosecution under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). *Id.* at 630.

On March 3, 2016, the envelope containing Plaintiff’s copy of the Report and Recommendation (ECF No. 34) was returned to the Clerk of Court, marked “Return to Sender, Attempted - Not Known, Unable to Forward.” (ECF No. 36.)

Plaintiff was advised by order filed October 19, 2015, of his responsibility to notify the Court in writing if his address changed and that his case could be dismissed for failing to comply with the Court’s order. (ECF No. 9.) Plaintiff filed no objections, and the time for doing so expired on March 4, 2016. In the absence of objections to the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation, this Court is not required to provide an explanation for adopting the recommendation. See *Camby v. Davis*, 718 F.2d 198, 199 (4th Cir. 1983). Rather, “in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a *de novo* review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.’” *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 and advisory committee’s note). Plaintiff has failed to comply with this Court’s orders. As such, the Court finds that this case should be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

After a careful review of the record, the applicable law, and the Report and Recommendation, the Court finds the Magistrate Judge’s recommendation to be proper. Accordingly, the Report and Recommendation is incorporated herein by reference and this action is DISMISSED with prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Bruce Howe Hendricks  
United States District Judge

March 11, 2016  
Greenville, South Carolina

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**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

The parties are hereby notified that any right to appeal this Order is governed by Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.